

REMARKS

Claim 25 has been amended to remove duplicate citation of “2-aminobutyl-1,3-propanediol linker”. New dependent claims 35-47 simply claim separately the use of each component introduced into the oligonucleotide. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claim 25 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 25 was finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato and Froehler, as further evidenced by Huang. The rejection states that it would have been obvious to incorporate the phosphoramidate linker of Froehler into the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide of Sato, citing Huang for the proposition that phosphoramidate is an amino linker. Claim 25 has been amended to remove the term “amino linker”. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment overcomes this rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed claims 25 and 39-47 are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 207-571-9365, x-107.

Respectfully submitted,

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